CLAIMS:

1. In a network comprising a first node where raw business data is collected, wherein the first node comprises information relating to transactions conducted at the node, and a second node connected to the first node, a method for converting the raw business data to transformed data, the method comprising:

determining a period of time when the raw business data is to be processed for conversion to transformed data;

determining whether to transform the raw data into transformed data in the first node based on relevant local processing conditions, wherein the local processing conditions comprise one of a need for the transformed data in the first node and a availability of processing resources for processing in the first node during the period of time;

converting the raw data to transformed data in the first node if any of the local processing conditions is satisfied; and

sending the raw business data to a second node for conversion to transformed data if none of the local processing conditions is satisfied.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time is predetermined interval.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time is based on an amount of the raw data.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the transformed data comprises a transformed format.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the transformed data format is XML.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the transformed data format is IXRetail.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the transformed data format comprises POSLog data.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the raw data comprises sales-related data.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises transforming the raw data into the transformed data format at the first node if either of the conditions is met.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing comprises parsing the raw data to extract data from each of a plurality of fields.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the data to a second node for conversion to transformed data, if none of the optimal conditions are satisfied, further comprises converting the raw data to a transformed data format and entering the transformed data into a database.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to process the raw business data is done at the first node.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to process the raw business data is done at the second node.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein collecting raw business data at a first node comprises collecting raw business data at a store node.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein sending the raw business data to a second node for conversion to transformed data comprises sending the raw business data to an enterprise node for processing.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the raw business data comprises TLog data and determining whether to process the raw data in the first node is done at the frequency of TLog transfers to the second node.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein local processing conditions include the available processing bandwidth of the network for transmitting the data to the second node.

18. An information processing system comprising:

a processor for collecting raw transactional data;

a memory for storing the raw transactional data; and

a communication subsystem for transmitting the raw data to a second node;

wherein the controller comprises logic for determining a period of time when the raw data is to be processed for conversion to transformed data, and for determining whether to process the raw data in the first node based on local processing conditions, wherein the local processing conditions comprise one of a need for the transformed data in the first node and a demand for processing in the first node during the period of time.

19. The information processing system of claim 18 wherein the logic comprises program code instructions for execution by the processor.

20. The information processing system of claim 18 wherein the logic comprises an application-specific integrated circuit.

21. The information processing system of claim 18 wherein the processor comprises a point of sale controller and the second node is an enterprise node that comprises information.

22. A computer readable medium comprising program instructions for:

collecting raw data at a first node in a network, wherein the first node comprises information relating to transactions conducted at the node;

determining a period of time when the raw data is to be processed for conversion to transformed data;

determining whether to process the raw data in the first node based on local processing conditions, wherein the local processing conditions comprise one of a need for the transformed data in the first node and a demand for processing in the first node during the period of time;

converting the raw data to transformed data in the first node if either of the conditions is met; and

sending the data to a second node for conversion to transformed data if none of the optimal conditions are satisfied.

23. In a network comprising a first node where raw business data is collected, wherein the first node comprises information relating to transactions conducted at the node, and a second node connected to the first node, a method for converting the raw business data to transformed data, the method comprising:

monitoring the availability of raw business data at the first node;

determining whether to transform the raw business data to transformed data based on relevant second node conditions; and

transforming the raw business data to transformed data at the second node when any of the relevant second node conditions is satisfied.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the relevant second node conditions comprise any of availability of processing resources to process the raw business data at the second node and the relative cost of processing the raw business data at the second as opposed to the first node.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein the determining element comprises considering relevant first node conditions and wherein relevant first node conditions comprise the need for the transformed data at the first node and the availability of processing resources to process the raw business data at the first node.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein the determining element comprises considering relevant network conditions and wherein relevant network conditions comprise the availability of bandwidth to transport the raw business data from the first node to the second node.

27. The method of claim 23 wherein the first node comprises a retail sales operation and the second node comprises an enterprise node coupled to the first node by a network.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein the transforming element comprises transforming the raw business data to transformed data at the first node when any of the relevant first node conditions is satisfied.